

**CITY OF ONEIDA**  
**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**  
January 16, 2024  
2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Bruce Burke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vice-Chairman Donald White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Barbara Buehner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Malinowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Late)
James Sweet	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erwin Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brahim Zogby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Geer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

ADVISORS:

Public Safety Commissioner Dave Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Chief Steven Lowell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire Department Dennis Relyea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
City Engineer Jeff Rowe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Traffic Advisor Robert Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Traffic Advisor Shawn Palmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

OTHER:

Parks & Rec Director Luke Griff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brian Bortree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Burke.

Approval of October 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes Distributed for Review Prior to January 16, 2024 Meeting

Moved by: Erwin Smith

Seconded by: Brahim Zogby

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the regular meeting of October 17, 2023 are hereby approved as presented.

Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 2 (Malinowski, Buehner & Sweet)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

### Old Business

- ❖ Bob Anderson – Vets Field Traffic Lights  
Bob wanted to give an update on the ongoing discussions with the State Department on what is happening with the flashing light signs near Vets Field. He is still emailing back and forth with his contact there about options, but the emails are not fast coming. Realistically the City will not have a lot of say in what happens as the current signs do not have breakaway poles. Bruce asked if we could offer the State an alternative; a newer sign as the City would like to keep the signs in place. Don asked why the State wanted to take the signs out and Bob let everyone know it is because the sign pole is not a breakaway, and the State doesn't want the responsibility for that.
  
- ❖ Brahim Zogby – Parking on the side of streets  
Brahim asked what was happening with the parking on side streets, particularly on E. Sands St. where the City's right of way is paved. Jeff Rowe said that in the spring the DPW can rip out the pavement and place grass seed there. He also asked if we wanted to do this will the other similar areas in Oneida. That particular area used to be commercial and parking was zoned differently there. Police Chief Lowell found nothing on file for a variance or permit to allow parking in that area. Michael Geer said he knows the people who live there and feels like this situation could have been handled better. The owners did not feel like the process and regulations were explained properly. It was determined that a letter would go out to the owners letting them know that parking is not permitted in that area and that in the spring the area in the City's right of way would have the concrete pulled out and grass seeded.

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### 1. Kenwood Ave Signs (Timothy Killian)

Discussion: Police Chief Steve Lowell stated that there have been multiple discussions throughout the years on what signs should be in this area, and that the current signs are accurate and visible. The police put out the electronic signs and radar in good weather, but it is not feasible to put it out in the winter as it will kill the batteries. Erwin asked if we have speed signs out and Steve let everyone know that we have a sign at the bridge and another at the end of our section there. Don White asked if we could contract Sherrill PD to monitor that area. Steve said that it is possible, but there are lots of hoops to jump through to make it happen. The biggest 'road block' is that the PBA (Police Union)

would need to agree first before we reach out and we would need to determine who would fund the contract and cost, as well as what types of calls another department would handle. Steve let everyone know that we do not have a dedicated staffed car that can patrol that area, due to staffing numbers and resources. The police department does patrol that area sporadically as resources allow. Bruce asked if we have many complaints from the Kenwood area and Steve replied no. Commissioner Dave Jones lives in that area and doesn't see many speeding incidents there. Sherrill has the same speed limit and patrols at their end regularly. Steve said he would reach out to the State Police and Sherrill PD to see if they might be interested in patrolling the area.

### **New Business**

❖ Bob Anderson – Retirement

Bob wanted to let everyone know that he will be retiring at the end of July and wanted to introduce his successor, Shawn Palmer. He will be spending the next few months alongside Bob learning all he does and will be on the Traffic Safety Board.

❖ Bob Anderson – CSX Railroad

Bob also wanted to let everyone know that CSX still hasn't done anything on Sturm Road with the gate by the railroad. He only has 1 persons number at CSX and has left a voicemail, but hasn't heard back yet. If he hasn't seen anything by the next meeting he will reach out to Nadine.

Next Meeting Tuesday April 16, 2024, at 2:00pm

Motion to adjourn by: Michael Geer

Seconded by: Erwin Smith

The meeting is hereby adjourned at 2:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Luck  
Traffic Safety Board Secretary